MEMENTO

OF THE VISIT OF

His Excellency, the Governor-General,

LORD LANSDOWNE,

TO THE

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE,

JARVIS ST., TORONTO,

FRIDAY, MAY 13th, 1887.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

W. S. Lee, Esq.
James E. Smith, Ex-Mayor.
James Lobb, Ex-Alderman.
Neil C. Love, J. P., Ex-Alderman.
James Pepler, "
William Houston, M. A.

PRINCIPAL:

Archibald MacMurchy, M. A.

Chairman James Lobb's Speech.

May it please Your Excellency.

The Trustees, the Faculty, and the Pupils of the Collegiate Institute, with most profound respect for that Sovereign Lady, Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria (whom you so worthily represent), and yourself, beg to proffer you a most loyal, cordial and heartfelt welcome to this institution. They regard it as a most auspicious coincidence, that this, the first visit of a Governor-General, should occur on the Jubilee Year of Her Majesty's accession, and your name, sir, will be handed down in connection with this most memorable and pleasing event. They trust that when you shall have returned to the land of your Illustrious Ancestors, you will be able to reflect with pleasure upon the period of your residence in this fair Dominion, in your Vice-Regal capacity, and that it will be a green spot in your memory. May it be a source of satisfaction to you, Sir, to know, that largely through your unsparing and well directed efforts, it was characterized by a fresh impetus imparted, not only to commercial expansion and the rapid development of the country at large, but also to the Arts and Sciences. With your estimable consort, Lady Lansdowne, may your Excellency long live to promote the best interests of that Glorious Empire, on whose confines the sun never sets, and whose destiny will, we fondly hope, soon be more intimately bound up with that of her numerous and prosperous colonies.

For your Excellency's information, I may state that the Institute was founded in the year 1807; pupils on the register in 1886, 647; average attendance in April, 1887, 388. Six Trustees, appointed by the City Council, compose the Board of Management. The Staff consists of the Principal, Eleven Masters and Teachers and three Ladies. It has been well said, Sir, that "colleges have their indispensable office to teach elements, but they can only highly serve us when they aim, not to drill, but to create; when they gather from far every ray of various genius to their hospitable halls, and by the concentrated fires, set the hearts of their youth on flame." This school, Sir, occupies a position corresponding with the Grammar Schools of the mother land, and here is provided an education which will prepare and qualify either for the University, the professions, or for the other walks and pursuits of life The great aim is to inspire a thirst for knowledge, and to furnish the mind with a heritage which can be despoiled by no change of outward condition, and establish a fund for solid enjoyment in declining age—practically to endorse what one of our greatest poets has said,

> "The joys of sense, to mental joys are mean;
> Sense on the present only feeds;
> The soul o'er past and future forages for joy."

We trust your Excellency will kindly address a few words of counsel or encouragement to the pupils of the Institute.

His Excellency's Reply.

Lord Lansdowne, in reply, thanked them all for the enthusiastic welcome they had given him. He did not think his visit would have been a formal one, and he did not expect such a gratifying reception as they had been pleased to give him. He thanked them also for associating his visit with the Jubilee year, an event which called forth a spontaneous feeling of loyalty and affection to Her Majesty throughout all her wide dominions. Mr. Lobb, in his speech, had been kind enough to suggest that he, the speaker, should address a few words of counsel and encouragement to the students. Regarding counsel, he was afraid, even though he should assume that he was competent to give any, that his young friends would listen to it with the impatience with which he as a boy used to hear the wise and weighty advices of the school authorities. (Cheers.) As to encouragement, he would, however, take the opportunity of telling them of the cordial interest which he took in their system of public education generally, and particularly in the institutions of which their school was so creditable a representative. In this country they had an admirable system of public education. The people were never reluctant to submit to sacrifices in order to provide good education to every one in the community. In this they were ahead of those at Home. Here they had in their Collegiate Institutes and High Schools an admirable system of secondary education, and to a certain extent had solved a problem which was far from having been solved in the Mother Country. He was glad to observe that their course of studies made provision for an education of a thorough and varied character, and to notice that a place was found in it for the study of the classics. In this respect their Curriculum, he observed, was arranged in a most sensible manner, giving the student, at a certain point in his school course, the choice between continuing his study of the classics and taking in lieu of them a course of study in modern languages. In giving such an opportunity of choosing between these two courses, they made a wise provision for the various requirements of the community. He was pleased to meet so many of the lady students of Toronto as were present. (Loud Cheers by the boys.) The boys received that sentiment in a manner which showed that they were not afraid of the competition they were likely to encounter from the quick intelligence and ability of the other sex. It had given him much pleasure to learn that on the examination now in progress at University College a number of lady students were at this moment submitting themselves for examination for the degrees of the University. He had an announcement to make which he thought would not be of a depressing character. He had the permission of the trustees to announce that there would be a cessation of work in the school until Tuesday. (Cheers.) He now would bid them good-bye, and hoped they would have a pleasant remembrance of the day when they were introduced to the humble individual who had the honor of bearing Her Majesty's commission at present in this country. (Loud and prolonged cheering.)

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